Hannah Metevia

Unit #2 Rough Draft

ENG 201 M/W 3:30-4:45

February 15, 2016

As the 2016 Presidential campaigns continue, so does the topic of immigration. However, one big issue is splitting the nation and its beliefs right down the middle. A new change in the possible immigration legislation, proposed by Senator Marco Rubio, would require immigrants to learn a substantial amount of English before they have access to full citizenship. “Americans are evenly divided on whether or not they think Congress can pass a bill, with 53 percent saying passing a comprehensive measure is very or somewhat likely, and about half of adults say it's also an important piece of legislation that should be passed, according to the poll” (US News).

So, where do you fall?

Some people think that if immigrants were forced to learn English before they were granted legal status, their quality of life would greatly improve. As of right now, when applying for green cards, visas, or citizenship, immigrants are not required to prove themselves to be English proficient (ProEnglish). Those on this side of the argument say having a more rigid English course when applying will give immigrants a better sense of pride for the nation and ensure the cost of providing foreign language translation services will not be on the shoulders of taxpayers (ProEnglish).

On the other hand, the opinions are quite different. The other side of the debate believes that forcing them to learn English would strip them of their own culture and background – after all, America is known as the melting pot. With that being said, the United States of America doesn’t technically have a declared official language, so why would we make them learn English?

I don’t believe that there is a right answer to this argument – there are positives and negatives on both sides.